

TRINITY EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

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(A member of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod)

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Pentecost 3

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Jesus performed miracles to prove that He is true God, “*the Word made flesh*” (John 1:14). During the Epiphany season, Jesus’ miracles directed people to His word, which emphasized how He also made Himself known as the only saving light for all people (John 8:12).

Now that we have begun the season of Pentecost, this non-festival season of the church years shifts more to the response of believers to Jesus. That’s why Pentecost primarily outlines the growth of Christ’s Church by the faith-response of believers as they use His means of grace through which the Holy Spirit calls to faith and keep in the true faith.

As we consider this faith-life of believers, we witness this widow of Nain at a time of severe faith-testing. In her time of bereavement, however, Jesus comes with His word of life. He proves His power over death by raising up her son. We also witness our LORD’s resurrection power in the Old Testament account of Elijah restoring life from death to the widow’s son.

Certainly, these two accounts assure how Jesus has control over death for us too. He may not spare us from physical death—unless He returns before that time. But by faith, we pray to Jesus for help and turn to His word which guarantees He conquered our sin and defeated our death.

Order of Worship: ELH Page 109, *Matins*.

Hymns: 43, 257 (1-6), 434, 385

THE SERVICE OF THE WORD

Old Testament: **1 Kings 17:17-24**. Through His servant, the prophet Elijah, the LORD demonstrated His power over death. The LORD heard Elijah’s prayer and miraculously raised the widow of Zarephath’s son from death.

Psalm of the Day: Psalm 30. Even in times of sorrow, we realize that our God has the power to turn our “wailing into dancing” by fulfilling His good purposes (CW pg.76).

Epistle: **Galatians 1:11-24**. Although very much physically alive and actively persecuting God’s true believers, Paul was spiritually dead. Surely, by nature we were all spiritually dead, but as true with Paul so with us. God made us spiritually alive through the Holy Spirit’s gift of faith.

Verse of the Day: Alleluia. God was in Christ reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them. And he has entrusted to us the message of reconciliation. Alleluia. (2 Corinthians 5:19, EHV)

Gospel: **Luke 7:11-17**. Jesus exhibited His divinity as “the resurrection and the life” by raising the widow of Nain’s son from death.

Sermon Text: 1 Kings 17:17-24

Theme - “The LORD Grants A Second Life After Death”

Points to ponder from the day’s Scripture readings:

- Old Testament: How did this widow, at the death of her only child, react toward Elijah (v.18)?
- Old Testament: What did she mean when she grumbled, “*Did you come to remind me of my sin...?*”
- Old Testament: What’s the point of the seeming dramatic length to which Elijah went to bring the child back to life?
- Epistle: How does Paul authenticate the gospel...validating his ministry?
- Epistle: How did Jesus make Paul spiritually alive according to what we read in Acts 9:1-19?
- Epistle: How and why does God make us spiritually alive according to Titus 3:4-7?
- Gospel: What does the statement, “*His heart went out to her,*” tell us about Jesus?
- Gospel: How does the response of the crowd, “*A great prophet has appeared among us,*” fulfill Deuteronomy 18:15?

Announcements:

+ Please join us for Bible class, Sunday morning at 8:00 a.m.

+ Confirmation class: ? at the church on?

+ timeofgrace.org – a resource for timely, topical subjects and what the Bible says.

1 Kings 7:17-24 – Some time later the son of the woman who owned the house became ill. He grew worse and worse, and finally stopped breathing. She said to Elijah, “What do you have against me, man of God? Did you come to remind me of my sin and kill my son?” “Give me your son,” Elijah replied. He took him from her arms, carried him to the upper room where he was staying, and laid him on his bed. Then he cried out to the LORD, “O LORD my God, have you brought tragedy also upon this widow I am staying with, by causing her son to die?” Then he stretched himself out on the boy three times and cried to the LORD, “O LORD my God, let this boy’s life return to him!” The LORD heard Elijah’s cry, and the boy’s life returned to him, and he lived. Elijah picked up the child and carried him down from the room into the house. He gave him to his mother and said, “Look, your son is alive!” Then the woman said to Elijah, “Now I know that you are a man of God and that the word of the LORD from your mouth is the truth.” (EVH™)

Galatians 1:11-24 - I want you to know, brothers, that the gospel I preached is not something that man made up. I did not receive it from any man, nor was I taught it; rather, I received it by revelation from Jesus Christ. For you have heard of my previous way of life in Judaism, how intensely I persecuted the church of God and tried to destroy it. I was advancing in Judaism beyond

many Jews of my own age and was extremely zealous from the traditions of my fathers. But when God, who set me apart from birth and called me by his grace, was pleased to reveal his Son in me so that I might preach him among the Gentiles, I did not consult any man, nor did I go up to Jerusalem to see those who were apostles before I was, but I went immediately into Arabia and later returned to Damascus. Then after three years, I went up to Jerusalem to get acquainted with Peter and stayed with him fifteen days. I saw none of the other apostles—only James, the Lord’s brother. I assure you before God that what I am writing you is no lie. Later I went to Syria and Cilicia. I was personally unknown to the churches of Judea that are in Christ. They only heard the report: “The man who formerly persecuted us is now preaching the faith he once tried to destroy.” And they praised God because of me. (EVH™)

Luke 7:11-17 - Soon afterward Jesus went on His way to a town called Nain, and His disciples and a large crowd were traveling with Him. As He was approaching the town gate, there was a dead man being carried out, the only son of his mother. She was a widow, and a considerable crowd from the town was with her. When the Lord saw her, he had compassion on her and said to her, “Do not cry.” He went up to the open coffin, touched it, and the pallbearers stopped. He said, “Young man, I say to you, get up!” The dead man sat up and began to speak and Jesus gave him to his mother. Fear gripped all of them, and they glorified God, saying, “A great prophet has arisen among us? And “God has visited His people!” This was reported about Him in all of Judea and in all the surrounding countryside. (EVH™)

*Our Christian brothers and sisters in Ukraine are in need of our support. First and foremost, they need our prayers to God for peace, protection and security. There is also a very great need for humanitarian assistance as the war continues to destroy lives and property. The ELS Board for Christian Service has established the Ukraine Crisis fund to aid our brothers and sisters in the Ukrainian Lutheran Church and the Gift of Life program as well as other Ukrainians in need. To contribute to this fund, go to els.org/donate. Please use one of the “Other” options and enter “Ukraine Crisis Fund.” Or, checks may be sent to ELS Ukraine Crisis Fund, 6 Browns Ct., Mankato, MN 56001. Jesus bless us all with His saving grace!